

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 NSC-05 PM-03

UOSS-00 /043 W

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O 152005Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1195

AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3372

DEPT FOR A/SY, A/SY/FO PASS DIA; PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS

SUBJ: THREAT TO ASSASSINATE COLONEL SAMUEL STAPLETON, DATT,
MAY 8, 1975

REF: BA 3227

1. ON MAY 12, 1975 THE WATCH COMMITTEE MET IN ORDER TO
CONSIDER THE TELEPHONE THREATS MADE AGAINST THE SUBJECT.
INITIAL CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THE NATURE OF THE THREAT
AND OTHER INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE DATT. THE COMMITTEE WAS
ADVISED THAT THE GOA FEDERAL POLICE HAS STATED THAT SOME
VICTIMS PRIOR TO KIDNAPPING AND/OR ASSASSINATION HAD RE-
CEIVED TELEPHONE THREATS. IN ADDITION OTHER VICTIMS WERE
NOT THE SUBJECT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. THIS INFORMATION WAS
INTERPRETED BY THE COMMITTEE TO MEAN THAT NO DIRECT LINK
COULD BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN A TELEPHONE THREAT AND AN
ACT OF KIDNAPPING AND/OR ASSASSINATION. ON THE OTHER
HAND THE COMMITTEE WAS OF THE OPINION THAT SUCH THREATS
CERTAINLY COULD NOT BE IGNORED. THE FOLLOWING COURSES
OF ACTION WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE: A. COLONEL
STAPLETON WOULD DEPART BUENOS AIRES ON 21 MAY AND REMAIN
ON LEAVE OUTSIDE OF THE CITY THROUGH 30 MAY. B. BETWEEN
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MAY 12 AND 21 MAY COLONEL STAPLETON WOULD DRASTICALLY

VARY HIS DAILY PROCEDURES. ONE OR TWO DAYS EACH WEEK HE WOULD NOT REPORT TO THE EMBASSY. ON DAYS WHICH HE WOULD REPORT TO THE EMBASSY HIS TRAVEL SCHEDULE WOULD VARY FOUR TO 6 HOURS. C. ON RETURNING FROM LEAVE AT THE END OF MAY STAPLETON WILL PERIODICALLY BE ABSENT FROM HIS HOUSE. A GUARD WILL REMAIN ON HIS QUARTERS 24 HOURS A DAY, HE WILL TRAVEL WITH A BODYGUARD AND A CONTRACTUAL GUARD PATROL VEHICLE WILL FURNISH ESCORT TO AND FROM THE EMBASSY. D. COLONEL STAPLETON IS PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TO DEPART BUENOS AIRES ON JULY 30, 1975. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THAT DIA BE CONTACTED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CURTAILING COLONEL STAPLETON'S TOUR. THERE SHOULD BE A LEAST A TEN DAY OVERLAP.

2. IT IS REQUESTED THAT A/SY CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES IN DIA AND DISCUSS WITH THEM THE THREAT SURROUNDING COLONEL STAPLETON. IT IS REQUESTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE TO HAVE COLONEL STAPLETON'S REPLACEMENT, COLONEL PAUL COUGHLIN TRAVEL TO ARGENTINA PRIOR TO HIS EXPECTED DATE OF ARRIVAL OF JULY 20, 1975. COLONEL STAPLETON HAS ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERATION OF LIAISON ACTIVITIES WITH VARIOUS MILITARY ATTACHES AND GOA ARMY PERSONNEL HE SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH COLONEL COUGHLIN PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE POST. WITH RESPECT TO EARLY TERMINATION OF COLONEL STAPLETON'S TOUR IN BUENOS AIRES, IT WAS THE DECISION OF THE COMMITTEE THAT COLONEL STAPLETON'S DEPARTURE SHOULD BE MADE TO APPEAR AS ROUTINE AS POSSIBLE. IT WAS FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE DISSIDENT ELEMENTS FROM THINKING THAT ALL THAT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE A STAFF MEMBER REMOVED FROM BUENOS AIRES WOULD BE A SERIES OF TELEPHONE THREATS.
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